

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,525,775) in view of Teichner et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0029139). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, as Teichner et al. does not qualify as prior art against the present application.

In this regard, the present application is a national stage application of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/004556, which was filed on March 30, 2004. Since the July 22, 2005 filing date of Teichner et al. is later than the filing date of the International Application, Teichner et al. does not qualify as prior art against the present national stage application. For at least this reason, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.


SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has done so.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Toru SASABE



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

James K. Moore, Jr.
Reg. No. 56,272

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191